

IN THE CLAIMS:

Kindly cancel claims 1-12 without prejudice or admission and add new claims 13-30 as indicated in the following listing of claims which replaces all previous listings of claims in this application:

1 - 12. (canceled)

AS 13. (new) An information processing device comprising: a processor for performing data processing functions; a display unit controlled by the processor and having a key display section for displaying a plurality of individually user-selectable character groups each containing one or more characters that may be input by a user for display on the character display section, and for displaying a cursor for indicating a selected character group; and a multi-directional manually operated switch connected to the processor for causing the cursor to move in alternate directions relative to displayed character groups; whereby character input can be achieved without use of a keyboard.

14. (new) An information processing device according to claim 13; further comprising a decision key for selecting a character group indicated by the cursor.

15. (new) An information processing device according to claim 14; wherein the display unit further comprises a character display section for displaying user-input characters.

16. (new) An information processing device according to claim 15; wherein the processor controls the display unit to display the one or more characters of a character group selected by activation of the decision key and a cursor for indicating a selected character group.

AS 17. (new) An information processing device according to claim 13; wherein the processor includes case switching means for switching between upper case and lower case characters in response to operation of the multi-directional manually operated switch in a given direction, and causing the display unit to display alphabetic characters of the characters groups in a selected case.

18. (new) An information processing device according to claim 13; further comprising a memory for storing a plurality of character types each containing characters of a specific language arranged in the character groups; and character type selecting means for selecting a desired character type.

19. (new) An information processing device according to claim 13; wherein the character groups each comprise a different group of letters of an alphabet.

20. (new) An information processing device according to claim 19; wherein letters are sequentially arranged in the respective character groups.

21. (new) An information processing device according to claim 13; wherein the character groups each comprise different character groups of the Japanese language.

AS 22. (new) An information processing device according to claim 13; wherein the information processing device is keypadless and has no keypad for character entry.

23. (new) An information processing device according to claim 13; wherein the character groups are arranged in a matrix in the key display section.

24. (new) An information processing device according to claim 23; wherein the cursor is displayed in a center of the matrix in an initial display of the character groups.

25. (new) An information processing device according to claim 13; wherein the display unit further comprises a character display section for displaying user-input characters.

26. (new) An information processing device according to claim 13; wherein the information processing device is configured as a portable device.

27. (new) An information processing device according to claim 13; further comprising a wrist-wearable case in which the processor, the display unit, and the multi-directional manually operated switch are disposed.

28. (new) A method of character input using a multi-directional switch of a portable information processing device having a display unit, comprising:

As displaying a plurality of individually-selectable character groups each containing one or more characters that may be input by a user on a key display portion of the display unit;

displaying a cursor on the display unit for indicating a selected character group and a selected character;

moving the cursor from one to another character group in one of plural directions in response to operation of the multi-directional switch in the same direction;

displaying the characters contained in a specific character group in response to selection of the specific character group by operation of a decision key;

moving the cursor from one to another of the displayed characters of the specific character group in one of plural directions in response to operation of the multi-directional switch in the same direction; and

displaying, in a character input section of the display unit, a specific character from the plural displayed characters of the specific character group in response to operation of the decision key, so that character input is achieved without use of a keyboard.

AS 29. (new) A method of character input according to claim 28; further comprising the steps of switching a case of displayed characters from upper case to lower case and from lower case to upper case by operating the multi-directional switch in a given direction to cause alphabetic characters of the character groups to be displayed in the selected case.

30. (new) A method of character input according to claim 28; further comprising the steps of storing a plurality of character types each containing characters of a specific language arranged in the character groups; and selecting a desired character type from the plural character types.